U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

FORM 15.

FIELD DIARY

AND

TRAVEL RECORD.

Mr. E. A. Goldman

(Official title.)

Period Dec. 4 *to* Dec. 25

Montana 1928.

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8—3681

DATE	STATIONS		R. R.	COUPON NOS.		PULL	SCRIP VALUE	
	From	To		From	To		Dolls.	Cts.

Dec. 4, 1928 (Tues)
Left Watertown, S.D., en route to National Bison Range. 3,10 PM. Day warm and pleasant.

Dec. 5 (Wed).
Light snow, about 2 in, on ground. En route to Chicago which was reached at 9 A.M. - in fact the light snowfall extended all along the way today and the weather is quite cold. Small ponds frozen over. Left St. Paul as we were leaving St. Paul about 12 PM

Dec 6 (Thurs) Snow all along way today and weather

Dec. 6 cont.
continued cold, Snow somewhat
deeper in places but usually
only about 2 in thickness which
yellowish grass and weeds and
dark shrubbery project. Leafless
trees (white trees again) in the
prairie country and little
evidence of human activity
gave the landscape a dreary
desolate wintry appearance.
Reached Billings, Mont. at
midnight and 5 min to
bed after a long talk with
Mr. Wood of Boise and
others on western evolution

Dec. 7 (Fri), en route
Light snow on ground near
Butte, Mont. and weather
cold. Arrived Dixon 1255 P.M.

Dec. 7, cont.

Mr. Turney [illegible] quiet last [illegible] showed they were asking that I be met at Bison Range, Pistol Rock and all the men were [illegible] and I had to wait an hour or more until one of the men could meet me. Arrived at Bison Range about 3 PM.

Pistol Rock came in I heard that about 300 buffaloes had been corralled during the day, and 64 head of elk. Some have just in. A high fog shutting in the hills but leaving clear air at low levels makes work of getting animals difficult just now.

Dec. 8 (Sat.) Bison Range.

Rain in morning [illegible] Missoula [illegible]

Dec. 8 con.

Myadette, Howard & Jack upon Juniper ... (near top of) along Whitewater, Are finally perched on the extreme top of a juniper where they give a series of short sharp notes which, while not exactly musical were answered in the same way by the other birds. Made another trip up the creek in the afternoon

Mr. Rose continued rounding up buffalo today and succeeded in bringing in all except about 9 head.

Dec. 9. (Sun.) Nat. Bison Range, Mont.

Began today separating the buffaloes to be slaughtered from those to be held for breeding

Dec. 9, con.
and exhibition purposes.
Separated 62 of best durable
for W.S. Custer who has been
the successful bidder at
$50 per head.

Weather much warmer today - a
chinook blowing and carrying off
snow rapidly every foot.

Dec. 10 (Mon.) Bal Brim Range
Finished today separation of
buffaloes for Custer who is to take
a total of 131 head.

Buffaloes. Most of herd was rounded
through chutes today, and there
was little difficulty with, care
must be [illegible] as buffaloes are
always [illegible] dangerous, but
the men enter the corrals in pairs and
separate buffaloes to be driven through

Dec. 10 cm.

~~gating the five things that people now~~ ~~facilitate~~ handicap is the fact that most of the animals are calves young

Dec. 11 (Tues) Nat from Range.

Completed roundup of elk today - about 29 were added to those in corral bringing the total to about 90.

Dec. 12 (25 below) Nat. from Range.

Visited various parts of range today to check up on forage. Rode and climbed on foot from road near Ravalli up to head of Elk Creek. I was surprised at poor forage conditions. In coming I would not

Dec. 12 cont

Rove to a place in Morin Valley where shooting of ducks after sunset has been reported, but we found no evidence of game law violation.

Dec. 13 (Thurs.) Nat. Bison Range.

Dave and I made a trip through the northeastern corner of [illegible] where on slopes over a small area forage is still fairly good owing to [illegible] Jack Rabbits, Buffalo and [illegible] night this area probably due to local topographic conditions which cause them to work around it. Rove and I went on

Dec. 13 con.

in camp to place where shooting after sunset had been reported, but everything was quiet.

When we returned in the evening we found Mr. C. T. Allen, Superintendent of the American Express Co, who is to be our general chaperone & meat shipper for this trip. We have been expecting U.S. Custer, the purchase of the buffaloes and elk rounded up for several days.

Dec. 14 (Fri) Nat. Broom Range, Mont.

Mr. Custer came early this morning and a start was made

Dec, 14 con.
on the butchering operations.
Rose and I went with Custer
up to Bitterroot valley to secure
a Bitterroot living on a ranch.
The trip enabled me to see
a large part of the valley that
was new to me.

Dec. 15 (Sat.) Nat. Bison
Range, Mont.
Watching butchering operations
in progress. G.T.
In afternoon Rose Mr. Allen
Co. Supt. Furry local & state agent
and I make a trip by auto
over new road to High Point
in hills in park.
New Road. This is about 3
miles in length and cost about

Dec. 15 cm.

*500 per mile. It extends from corals in Pauline Draw up the steep upper slopes of hills to beyond the highest of so-called High Point over the crest of which it passes to a point on the ridge beyond. It parallels the new fence (No. 8) for considerable distance and greatly facilitated getting fencing materials on to the ground. As the fence traverses the highest part of the range where slopes are steep it would otherwise have been difficult to get materials on the ground. This road will be of great scenic value besides being of great utility in getting over

Dec. 15 cm.

the range.

Weather. It was foggy and snowing today when we made our trip to the top. But the snow fall was very light and in the evening the sky cleared again.

High Point. The highest point of the range is estimated by Rose — and his estimate seems not far off — to be between 2000 and 2500 ft. above headquarters.

In the afternoon we visited Alexander Basin for a check on forage. Conditions there have become much poorer than in the past and forage is in very poor condition. The part of range grazing nearby and

Dec. 15 cm.

desirable forage distributing very fast.

Forage conditions. Forage conditions in general on the range have greatly deteriorated since 2 to 3 heavy storms last year. The summer has been a dry one & forage growth was short. As a result much of the grass is already close-cropped - thus applying especially to the more palatable species such as the Bunch grasses - Festuca scabrella and F. idahoensis. The latter less deeply rooted, is apt to be pulled up in bits and destroyed by grazing animals. The surface is badly cut and trampled down

Dec. 15 am.

in place. The result being erosion which is likely to become serious. It is evident to me that carrying capacity will be very greatly reduced - in fact has already been reduced. Rose tells me Glen Smith estimated the stand at 4 normal and figures the carrying capacity at only (then 300 & 400?) buffalos alone if other game animals are included.

Elk. Rose informed me has become convinced that there are many more than he supposed - he puts it at about 300 now and estimates that there are over

Dec. 15 (Tues.) Saw 500 elk as they are corralled in part for delivery to Yellowstone. Spring feeding conditions indicate that need of spring feeding has never been greater than at the present time.

Dec. 16 (Sun.) Nat. Bison Range. Watching Yellowstone elk return.

Dec. 17 (Mon.) Missoula, Mont. Left Bison Range with Dave and drove to Missoula where we attended luncheon of Federal Business Men's Association and I was asked to speak on my game work. Mr. Case the Superintendent of the Indian Agency accompanied us to Missoula.

Dec. 17 con.

In afternoon we saw T. R. Harlowe in regard to the possibility of driving of some elk to the state. He said he would take the matter up with the State Game Commission at its next meeting. Spent evening largely with Glen A. Smith and family, attended also meeting of local division of American Forestry Assoc.

Dec. 18. (Tues.) Nat. Bison Range, Mont.

Returned with Rose by auto to Bison Range where photographing operations are going forward rapidly.

Dec. 19 (Wed.) Nat. Bison Range, Mont. Two cars shipped today.

Dec. 20 (Thurs), National Bison Range, Mont.

W.S. Curtis is to receive 15 more buffalos in accordance with telegram from Washington; all a rounding is being made today.

Range (carrying capacity)

Glen A. Smith, after examination of range with one of his grazing experts who put days consumed figures stand at 4 normal and present carrying capacity as follows: Buffalos, 195

Elk	50
Deer	100
Mt. Sheep	100

or of Buffalo alone 324

Dec 20 con.

Mule deer. In good deal along creek last winter. Stocking 6 in 1918 & 17 — in 1921

White tail deer Stocking 17 — in 1921

Dec. 21 (Fri.) National Bison Range, Mont.

Most of day spent in separating 15 additional Buffalo for W. S. Cunningham. In evening drove with him to Missoula.

Dec. 22 (Sat)
Left Missoula 8:35 a.m.
for Washington D.C.

Dec 23-24
En Route

Dec. 25.
Arrive Washington. D.C
9 a.m